

FPA NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2021

Insights from our FPA team - Humera Sultan, Consultant in Public Health and Future Parks Accelerator Director

Hi everyone. It's been a while since I've introduced our newsletter to you, and so much has happened. We recently spoke at an All Party Parliamentary Group with Natural England to showcase just why our parks and green spaces are so important. They've been so impressed by our work, and want to visit us in Birmingham next Summer. Following on from this, the World Parks Congress have asked Birmingham to co-host one of the days (9th December 21) of the conference which is brilliant news for us; you can register here if you'd like to join:

<https://wup.imiscloud.com/Public/Events/World-Urban-Parks-Events.aspx>



On a personal note, my journey as a Green Champion has been incredible. Less than 12 months ago, I started up Friends of Swanshurst Park. In that time, with some great support from Birmingham Open Spaces Forum, our group has got 10k worth of funding. We now have youth workers in the park, noticeboards, a wildflower meadow, Tai Chi, a conservation working group, 2 family funs days with more planned, and a taster session for Forest School. Esa, my little man, has been completely involved from the start, which makes it even more special. What we've achieved is phenomenal – and I wanted to use this opportunity to tell you how rewarding it is to get more involved in your local park or green space.

I've also been on a rollercoaster journey with the FPA programme and my team, and I'm delighted to tell you we've reached the next phase of our programme – we've produced our draft 25 year Delivery Framework for a City of Nature. We still have a lot more work to do, especially before we get to Cabinet in February 2022, but we wanted to share our current thinking and give you the chance to give your views. I'd like to say a massive thank you to my wonderful team – Debbie, Dan, Soph, Rupi, Nick, Andy and Lou - and the Parks service who have helped us get to this point today. Pls do read on and tell us what you think. We would love to hear from you.



CITY OF NATURE DELIVERY FRAMEWORK

HAVE YOUR SAY

Over the last two years the Future Parks Accelerator Project – Naturally Birmingham, has been working to create a delivery framework for the sustainable provision, maintenance and use of green and blue spaces in the city. Alongside the FPA project, the city and its partners have also been working on ways to make our whole city a Bolder Greener City including the Our Future City Plan 2040



(<https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/ourfuturecityplan>) that sets out the vision for the development of the heart of Birmingham.

This first version of the FPA delivery framework considers all this work together in a whole city 25-year plan that has connecting people to nature at its heart, this is now called the Birmingham City of Nature Delivery Framework. This makes clear how we could deliver one the key themes of Our Future City Plan 2040, City of Nature.

Over the next 25 years we want to see Birmingham recognised as a City of Nature where its parks and green spaces are both sustainably managed and funded. This Delivery Framework will involve the whole council and its core third sector partners through a City of Nature Alliance; whilst at the same time reaching out to the citizens of Birmingham to facilitate significantly more involvement.



If you would like to learn more, read the full draft version of the City of Nature Delivery Framework Document, or submit any comments - you can do so on the following page: <https://naturallybirmingham.org/birmingham-city-of-nature-delivery-framework/>.

We are also hosting several webinars in December that you can sign up to here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/birmingham-city-of-nature-delivery-framework-community-conversations-tickets-214988254657>.

THE ENVIRONMENT ACT 2021

You may have heard that this month, following a debate in the House of Lords, the long-awaited Environment Act has passed into UK law – the first of its kind in 26 years. This is a really important milestone in the UK Government’s commitment to improving air quality, biodiversity and sustainability in the country.

The full press release can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-leading-environment-act-becomes-law>

CITY OF NATURE OFFICER - SECONDMENT OPPORTUNITY

We have an exciting opportunity for anyone looking to join our FPA team to help deliver our City of Nature Delivery Framework. The 12 month secondment will report into the Steetscene Assistant Director and will largely focus on supporting the delivery of an innovative and ground-breaking approach to managing green spaces, working closely with the FPA Project Director, the Green City Manager and supporting the development of the BCON Alliance (<https://naturallybirmingham.org/birmingham-city-of-nature-alliance/>) of organisations that will help deliver the City of Nature Framework. You will also work alongside other officers across at least 6 different BCC teams, as well as other external organisations.

The Secondment is currently open to internal candidates only. If this is something that sounds interesting to you, you can visit

<https://internal.wmjobs.co.uk/job/106081/city-of-nature-officer/> for more information.



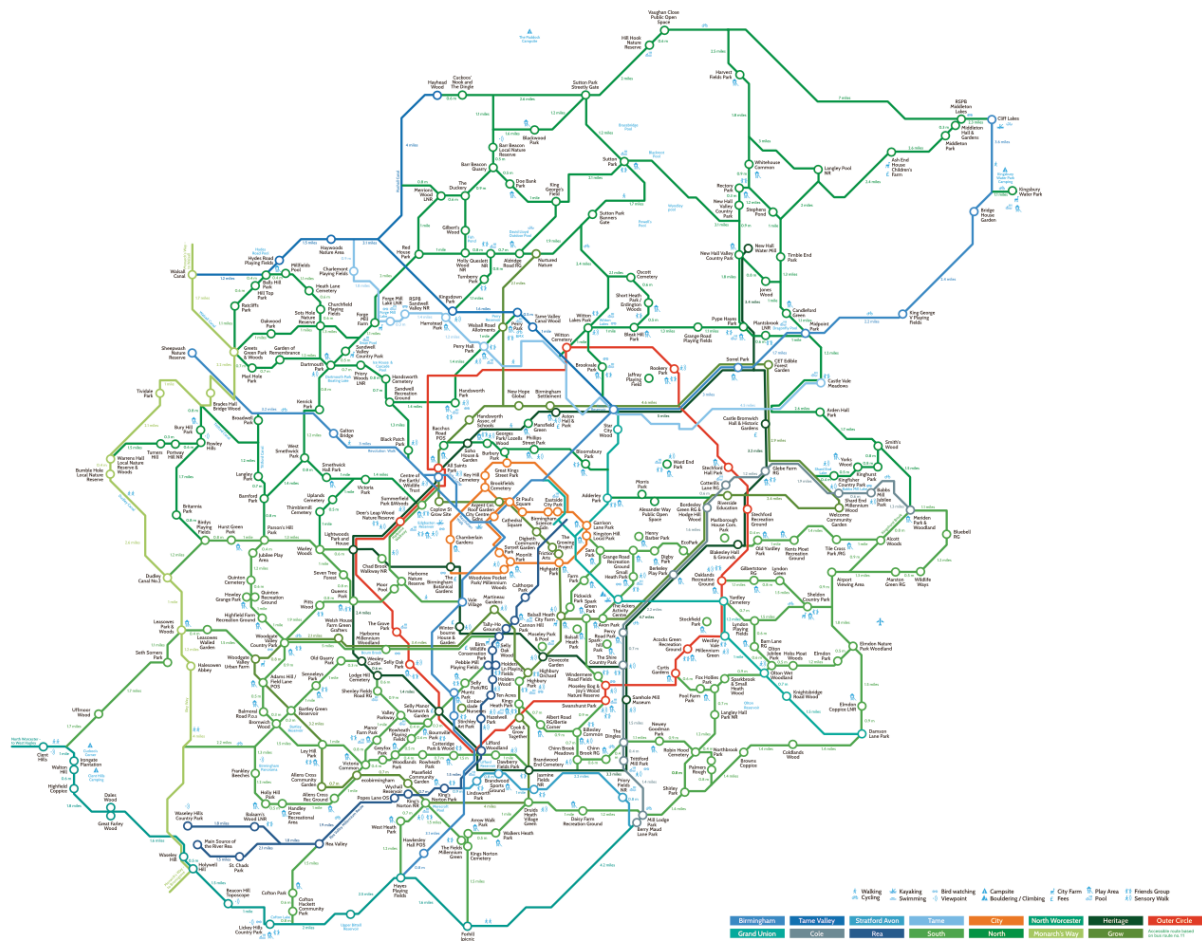
A GREEN GROUND MAP FOR BIRMINGHAM

A NEW WAY TO VIEW BIRMINGHAM

It may surprise you to hear that Birmingham is home to over 600 green spaces – ranging from small playing fields to expansive nature reserves, connected by our unique canal networks, rivers and walkways. Each and every one of these spaces are vital to our wellbeing, acting as spaces for us to play, socialise and make memories. We wanted a way to showcase these areas without relying on the road dominated maps we're so used to – something that is increasingly important in the face of a changing climate.

The 'Greenground Map' is a design project by Helen Illus in collaboration with Birmingham City Council and the Naturally Birmingham Project to map Birmingham's green spaces into a creative schematic walking network. The map includes parks, open spaces, nature reserves and woods – connected by waterways, canals and walking/cycling routes to promote the use of active travel. Naturally there was no way to include all 600+ green spaces on the map, but we have tried to showcase a broad range of spaces across all of Birmingham and its surrounding areas. As well as the parks themselves, the map also includes information on a range of outdoor activities located nearby, including bouldering, bird watching, kayaking and much more!

You can download the map here: <https://naturallybirmingham.org/birminghams-greenground-map/>.



GREEN CHAMPIONS WHATSAPP GROUP

DO YOU HAVE A LOVE OF ALL THINGS GREEN IN BIRMINGHAM?

We have recently created a space for everyone with a passion for green spaces in Birmingham to connect and communicate with each other, whether that's sharing information, highlighting upcoming events, or even sharing a few pictures of nature. The group is linked to our Green Champions programme that you may have seen in our previous newsletters, but you do not need to have been part of the programme to join! If this is something you would be interested in, you can submit a request to join using the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdGL3jN-cEnsXpefcAw2aDTolj-whD4pRzEtujTMt41BziSWw/viewform?usp=sf_link



Still not had enough of FPA? You can visit our website here:

<https://naturallybirmingham.org/>

  @NaturallyBirmi1

 <https://naturallybirmingham.org/>